

# ***Headquarters U.S. Air Force***

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*Integrity - Service - Excellence*

## **Pilot-Physician Program**



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**MAJCOM Pilot-Physician**  
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# Historical Background

## History

We weren't recognized as a formal group until after World War I.



Dr. Luigi Falchi, military pilot/physician in heavier-than-air, aircraft



Dr. John Jeffries - November 13, 1784

- Have existed since before WWI
- Operational “war fighter”
- Operational mission support medical officer

## Major Ralph N. Greene

First U.S. military physician to become a pilot. (1916-1917)

General practitioner turned neuropsychiatrist, from a Florida Army National Guard Unit

April 25, 1919: Surgeon General published a letter requesting volunteers from among the current medical officers to serve as flight surgeons. Inducements included an opportunity to become pilots themselves, with a 25% bonus in salary as flight pay



# Historical Background

## Establishment of the Flight Surgeon

American innovation - young medical corps physicians studying in Europe on Allied medical facilities just prior to WWI.

- special assistant to commander
- trusted advisor
- friend
- aircrew to understand flying environment



Hazelhurst Field, 1918  
Brooks Field, 1926



## Dr. Harry G. Armstrong,

1949 - USAF Surgeon General and father of the modern Pilot-Physician Program



"One must participate in activities firsthand to fully understand the associated risks and problems."

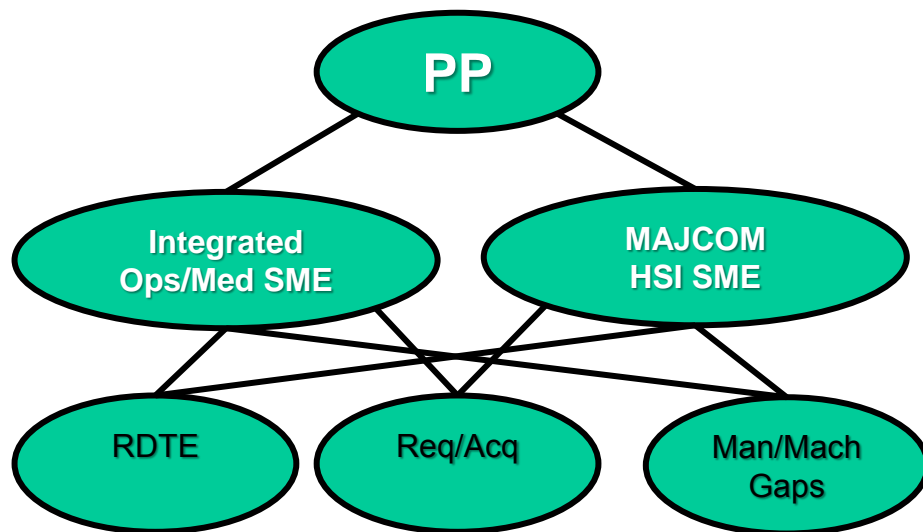
- Our Purpose – understand the risks of the flying environment firsthand to improve human performance





# Purpose of PPP

## ■ Governed by AFI 11-405



## ■ Four Main Objectives

- Expert Guidance
- Research
- Teaching
- Analysis

BY ORDER OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE



AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 11-405

23 DECEMBER 2014

Flying Operations

THE PILOT-PHYSICIAN PROGRAM

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

ACCESSIBILITY: Publications and forms are available on the e-Publishing website at [www.e-Publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-Publishing.af.mil) for downloading or ordering.

RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: AFMOA/SGPP

Certified by: AF/A3  
(Major General James J. Jones)

Pages: 34

Supersedes: AFI11-405, 21 April 2011

This Instruction implements AFDP 11-4, *Aviation Service*, and is consistent with AFDP 48-1, *Aerospace Medicine Enterprise*. The Pilot-Physician Program (PPP) makes the most of the special resources of Air Force officers who are simultaneously qualified both as pilots and flight surgeons. This Instruction describes the organization, application, selection, training and reporting for the PPP. It explains the responsibilities of various commanders, agencies and the Program Director (PD) who are tasked to support the PPP. This publication does not apply to the Air Force Reserves or Air National Guard. Major commands (MAJCOMs) only may further supplement this Instruction to outline their command requirements; any direct Supplements must be routed to the OPR of this publication for coordination prior to certification and approval. MAJCOM supplements are available on the e-Publishing website at [www.e-Publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-Publishing.af.mil). This Instruction has limited applicability to the Air Reserve Components (ARC), except as indicated in paragraph 1.3 of this instruction, for example, in that dual qualification for their members has proven prohibitively complex to this point. This Instruction requires the collection and maintenance of information protected by the Privacy Act of 1974: Title 5 United States Code, section 552a, authorized by Title 10 United States Code §8013; forms affected by the Privacy Act have an appropriate Privacy Act statement. System of Records Notice F011 AF XO A, Aviation Resource Management Systems (ARMS) applies and is available at <http://dpcl.o.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNs.aspx>. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Form 847s from the field through Major Command (MAJCOM) publications/forms managers. The authorities to waive wing/unit level requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier ("T-0, T-1, T-2 or T-3") number in



# What We've Done

Humanitarian



T-38IFF



B-52



F-15C/F-22



A-10







# What We've Done



F-117



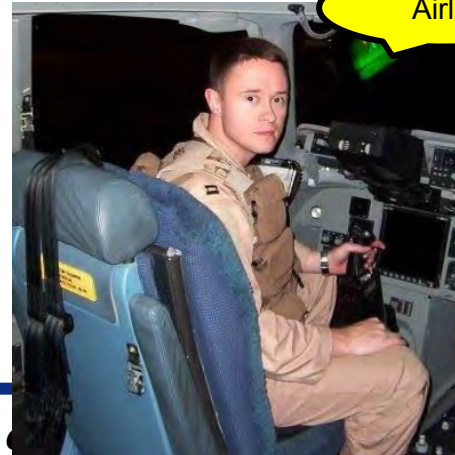
USAF/SG



Hawk



UPT



Airlift



Combat



# *Pathways to the PPP*

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- **Flight Surgeon to Undergraduate Flying Training (UFT)**
    - How old? 30 at the UFT class start date
      - Exception to Policy (ETP) opportunity?
    - 1 year as a flight doc
    - Civilian flying experience?
    - Line support!
    - AFOQT and BAT completed
  
  - **Pilot to Medical School**
    - Serve at least 2 operational tours before AFPC release
    - No guarantee for medical school acceptance
    - Must work pre-requisites individually
    - Commissioned at previous rank upon graduation (2 Lt during Med School)
    - HPSP or Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences
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